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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ro : Chief, Reports Division

DATE: 4 August 1952

THRU : Chief, Materials Division, ORR

FROM : Chief, Food and Agriculture Branch, OHR

SUBJECT: Agriculture, Planning Namual, Vol. III, Reviewed by A/Br, N/D.

1. General: The general reaction of Analysts in the Feed and Agriculture Branch who have read subject report is that it is "Ameteurish" and has some factual weaknesses. It is realised, however, that preparing a handbook of this nature represents a new endower and requires original thinking and a detailed knowledge of a rather broad field.

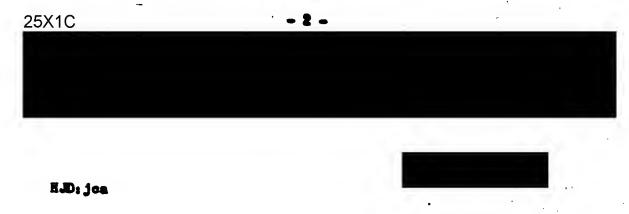
The comments and suggestions offered by the Food and Agriculture Branch are those of Agricultural technicians and not of specialists on questions and procedures conserming sabstage.

- 2. Accuracy of Contents: Several statements in the Agricultural section are of questionable accuracy and in other cases precedures suggested are somewhat unrealistic if not completely impracticable. Some examples are as follows:
- a) On page 1, it is stated that the Russian people exist on a very low-calorie ration and that widespread starvation is fairly common. Actually, on a calorie basis, diets in the USSR compare favorably with Europe as a whole and are higher than average calorie intakes in several European, Asiatic, African, and Middle East countries. There have been only two periods in recent years (1922 and 1932) when widespread starvation occurred. (The starvation that reportedly occurs in slave labor camps is probably not due to a shortage of food in the USSR as a whole.) Perhaps the statement in question could be medified to indicate that diets are of poor quality by Western standards and that malautrition is fairly common.
- b) The last three segtences of the first paragraph on page 1 are not clear. Is it considered desirable to starve people who are friendly to the WS? It is true that industrial mode for food items take priority over food mode of the population, etc.

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